Main Street Reconstruction Project, Danville, IL

2006 begins Season One of the Main Street (US 136) Reconstruction project. Preparation for the 2006 construction season began in the Fall of 2005 with water main construction and utility adjustments.

In 2006, IDOT will reconstruct the roadway from the Norfolk Southern Railroad to the Stone Arch Bridge. In 2006, contractors will:

- Construct a crossing guard median in the center turn lane at the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing.

- Remove and replace the northern and southern portions of Main Street from the Norfolk Southern Railroad to the Stone Arch Bridge.

In the Spring of 2007, IDOT will begin Season Two of the reconstruction project. Season Two will focus on the roadway from Pine Street to the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2007.

Main Street is the original thoroughfare through Danville; Danville's commerce started here. It began as a dirt road and then was paved with brick; the roadway was later overlaid with asphalt.

Today, the brick pavement has been worn out by decades of traffic. Approximately 25,000 cars and trucks use Main Street everyday.

At a cost of nearly $7 million, the Main Street Reconstruction Project will start at Pine Street and meet the recent improvement at the Stone Arch Bridge over Stony Creek near Collett Street. Nine inches of new concrete pavement will be built on a 12" gravel base. The lanes will be widened to 12 feet. Side street intersections will be reconstructed. New curb and gutter, sidewalks, and driveways will be built. A new storm sewer system will be installed. The traffic signals will be updated. Disturbed landscaping and lawns will be restored with sod.

Walnut Street and Franklin Streets will become two-way streets. Parking will no longer be allowed along Main Street.

The City of Danville plans to install new street lights. Aqua Illinois is installing a new water main.

During the project:

- 17,000 cubic yards of earth will be moved.
- 12,000 cubic yards of gravel base will be laid.
- 13,000 cubic yards of concrete will be poured.
- 10,000 feet of storm sewer will be laid.
- 9,000 cubic yards of sand will fill excavations.

Project Timeline

Below you will find staging information for the entire Main Street Reconstruction project. Please keep in mind that several factors, including weather, will affect the reconstruction project. Work schedule beginning and completion dates outlined below can be delayed or advanced depending on various conditions.

= 20 mph speed limit


= Left turns prohibited

Preparation Stage – Fall 2005 – Winter 2006

- Water main construction
- Utility adjustments

Season One – 2006

Norfolk Southern Railroad to the Stone Arch Bridge
Work begins March 20, 2006. (Work suspends late fall 2006).

Stage One - March 2006

- Close the center turn lane and passing lanes and build the main storm sewer line.
- Construct the median in the center turn lane at the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing.
- Traffic will use the driving lanes.

Stage Two - April – July 2006

- Build the north half of Main Street.
- One lane of traffic for each direction will be provided on the south half of Main Street.

Stage Three - August – November 2006

- Build the south half of Main Street.
- One lane of traffic for each direction will be provided on the north half of Main Street.

Stage Four - November 2006

- Paint the lane markings.

Season Two – 2007

Pine Street to the Norfolk Southern Railroad

Stage One - February – March 2007

- Close the center turn lane and the passing lanes and build the main storm sewer line.
- Traffic will use the driving lanes.

Stage Two A – March 2007

Pine Street to Franklin Street

- Build the south half of Main Street.
- One lane of traffic for each direction of traffic will be provided on the south half of Main Street.

Stage Two B – March – July 2007

Franklin Street to the Norfolk Southern Railroad

- Build the south half of Main Street.
- One lane of traffic for each direction will be provided on the north half of Main Street.

Stage Three A – July 2007

Pine Street to Franklin Street

- Build the north half of Main Street.
- Build North Walnut Street improvement.
- One lane of traffic for each direction will be provided on the south half of Main Street.

Stage Three B – July - November 2007

Franklin Street to the Norfolk Southern Railroad

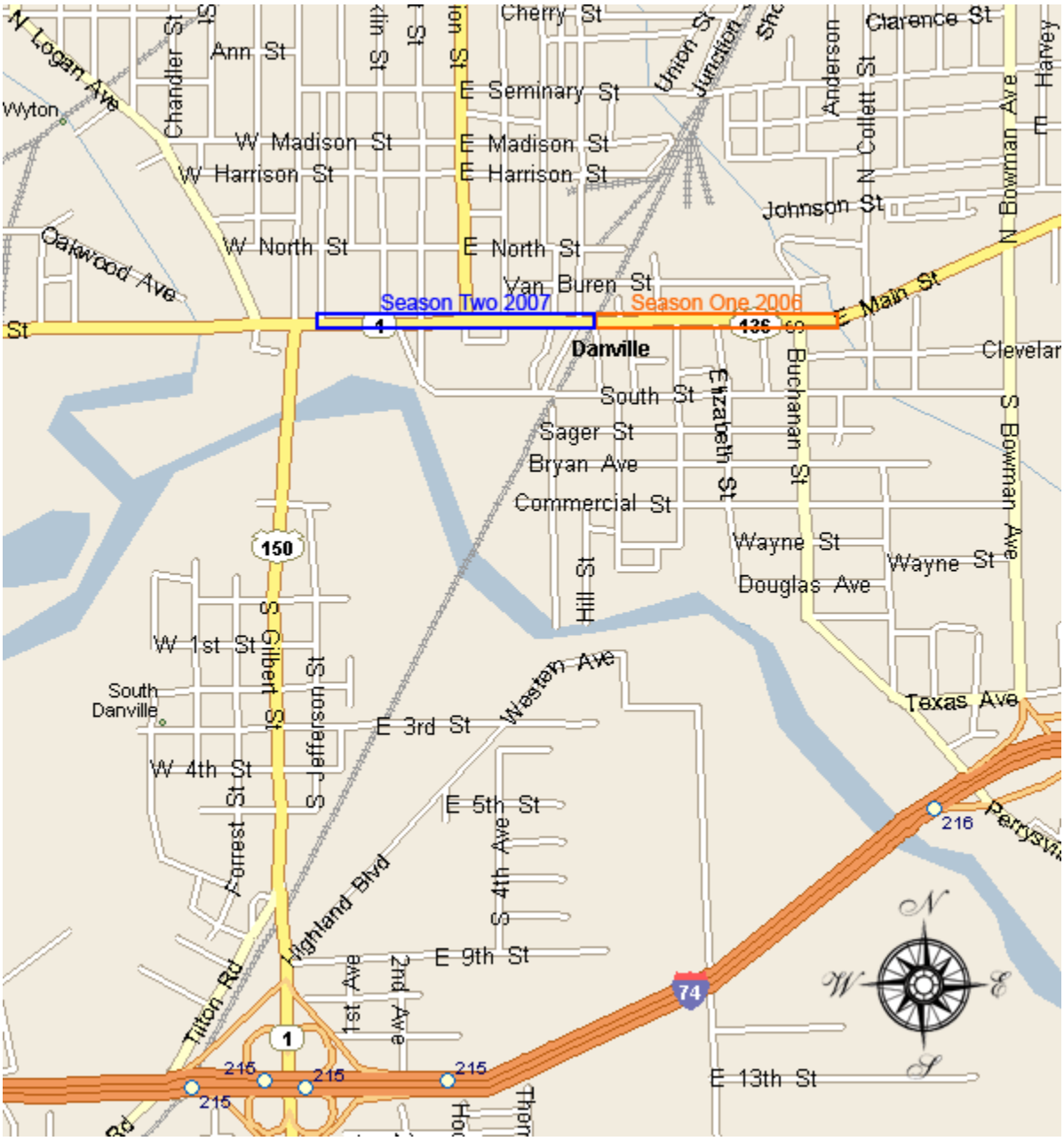
- Build the north half of Main Street.
- One lane of traffic in each direction will be provided on the south half Main Street.

Stage Four – November 2007

Pine Street to the Norfolk Southern Railroad

- Paint pavement markings and complete landscaping.

Reconstruction Overview Map



Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some answers to questions commonly asked:

Q: What exactly will be done to Main Street?

Main Street from Pine Street to Collett Street will be completely removed and replaced. New concrete pavement, curb and gutter, entrances, sidewalks, storm sewer, traffic signals and pavement markings will provide motorists with a safer, better looking highway. Walnut Street and Franklin Streets will changed to two way streets at the request of the City of Danville. Parking will no longer be permitted along Main Street. The City will install new street lights throughout the project.

Q: Is there really a need for this project?

The existing pavement is several decades old and the cost of repairing it exceeds the cost of building a new road. The grades and slopes of the road in relation to the buildings will not allow an overlay. The road would have to be ground down so much to meet the buildings there would not be enough of the existing pavement thickness left to use as a base. The existing lanes are very narrow – 11 feet and in some places 10 feet wide. The modern standard width is 12 feet. Presently the curb is next to the edge of pavement. A 2 feet wide gutter will be built with the curb that will provide a buffer between traffic and the sidewalk. The existing pavement surface has been worn smooth. The new surface will have more friction that will reduce the distance needed to stop quickly. This will reduce wet weather accidents. The new storm sewer system will remove storm water runoff from the road faster. Narrow side streets make turning difficult. These side streets will be widened to make turns easier and more comfortable. There are large bumps in the driving lanes that need to be removed where the side streets meet Main Street.

The improvement will result in a safer, more efficient highway facility that will provide potential for enhanced economic development. Anticipated traffic growth will reduce the level of service if no improvements are made. Main Street needs to be updated to meet modern demands and conditions.

Q: How much will the project cost?

The estimated total cost for the Main Street Reconstruction Project will be nearly $7 million.

Q: Has the project been discussed with the property owners?

The property owners, community, and the Illinois Department of Transportation have been working together since the initial public involvement meeting on June 18, 1997.

Q: How do I find out where construction is happening and the latest side streets closures to avoid?

Throughout the project there will be a weekly update to let motorists know what to expect in the upcoming week. Side street closures and openings information is available from this site. Work on business entrances will also be announced. The Main Street Reconstruction homepage also features a map that shows lane closures and construction staging.

Q: Why are left turns prohibited on the project?

Traffic will move better if vehicles are not waiting for opportunities to turn left. Reducing the available roadway to one lane each way will not present many gaps for left turning vehicles.

Q: Is this project going to slow down traffic and increase my travel time?

Yes. It's important to remember that although this may be a temporary inconvenience, the end result will be a much smoother and safer Main Street that will last well into the future.

Q: When will IDOT work on Main Street from Nicklas to Kansas Streets?

This last portion of the Main Street rehabilitation has been designed but is not yet scheduled in the fiscal program.

Q: How can I get more infomraiton about the Main Street Reconstruction project?

For more information please visit the following internet page, to send us an email: http://www.dot.state.il.us/email/.